

DON GRAYSTON, DESERET NEWS



Svend Jensen inspects a section of honeycomb. Mites have taken a toll in past.

# Mites killing Utah honeybees

Beekeepers treat their hives, but wild colonies defenseless

By Gregory P. Kratz  
Deseret News business writer

28 Apr  
1998

If this is the Beehive State, where are all the honeybees?  
An invasion of killer mites has

But Ed Bianco, entomologist for the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, said he does not think mites have killed enough bees to affect pollination and reduce fruit and vegetable production.

"I think the wild colonies are probably dealing with the problem in a natural way and probably are actually dealing with it better than some of our raised bees," Bianco said.

Some beekeepers estimate that up to 90 percent of the state's wild bee colo-

## MITES 4-28-98

Continued from A1

it reaches 90 percent.

Two kinds of mites arrived in the United States in the mid-1980s on bees imported from Europe.

The varroa mite, now present in 49 states, is an external mite that attaches itself to a larval or adult honeybee. The mite feeds on an adult bee's blood, and it can lead to deformities when bees are attacked during earlier stages of development.

The tracheal mite is internal. It gets inside a bee's tracheal tube and makes breathing difficult.

And to make matters worse, mites often carry viral and bacterial infections that can wipe out hives.

Bill Jones of Jones Bee Co. in Salt Lake City said honeybees in the United States have almost no resistance to the mites.

"If you don't treat, you don't have bees," Jones said. "Nobody treats the feral colonies, so we don't have them. And there's plenty of evidence to suggest that we don't."

Jones said people used to call him when swarms of wild bees were in their neighborhoods. He almost never receives those calls now.

Bryan Cox, a beekeeper in Prov-

idence, Cache County, said the mites are still around, but beekeepers know how to handle them.

"It's still a problem. It hasn't gone away," he said. "But it's more of a problem when you're taking shots in the dark."

The state's bee industry produced 1.6 million pounds of honey valued at \$1.3 million in 1996.

Bianco said beekeepers can use several chemicals and procedures to maintain that production and fight the mites.

"Certainly (mites) have an impact on bee populations and honey production, but we're better able to deal with it than we were 10 years ago," he said. "It's a threat to those who may not address the (problem), who do not take care of it as they should."

Apistan is the most popular product for killing varroa mites. Studies in Florida show that the mites are starting to build up a resistance to Apistan, but Bianco said other products soon should be available to fight the tiny, reddish-brown creatures.

In the meantime, he said, bees face a threat that is much larger than mites.

"There may be some drop (in bee numbers), and in part that may be due to a lot of the urbanization taking place along the Wasatch Front, in Utah and in general," he said.



Svend Jensen displays a strip used to control bee mites. Without treatment, wild colonies are dying — perhaps 90 percent of them.

DON GRAYSTON, DESERET NEWS





**Esprit®**

"Double Up" hi-wall canvas sneaker with padded collar. White in sizes 5½-10M, **35.00.**

**Skechers®**

"Womper" hi-wall sneaker in white, sizes 5½-10M, **40.00.**

**Ralph Lauren®**

**Ralph Lauren®**

Polo Sport "Stadium" hi-wall, lace-to-toe oxford with rubber toe guard. White in sizes 5½-10M, **59.00.** Also available in leather, **79.00.**

Available at Fashion Place and South Towne Center.

## 'Moonstruck' star to be boxing grand marshal

Tough-guy actor **Danny Aiello** will be the grand marshal of the 1998 Boxing Hall of Fame Parade of Champions.

A lifelong boxing fan, Aiello is a friend of 1998 inductee **Lou Duva**, parade co-chairwoman **Charlene Barres** said Monday.

The June 14 parade in Canastota, N.Y., will be held before the annual induction ceremony and feature more than 30 past and present boxing champions and ring personalities, including **Marvin Hagler**, **Joe Frazier**, **Floyd Patterson** and **Ken Norton**.

Aiello, who has appeared in such films as "Moonstruck," has a leading role in the upcoming miniseries "The Last Don."

## BIRTHDAYS

For  
Tuesday,  
April 28



Author <b>Harper Lee</b>	72
Iraqi president <b>Saddam Hussein</b>	61
Actress-singer <b>Ann-Margret</b>	57
Talk-show host <b>Jay Leno</b>	48

Abby, now plays volleyball for the Edinboro University team.

geophysicist  
reer as a te

## Singers reign at fund-raiser for rain forests

Pop singers Elton John and Madonna perform Monday during the ninth annual Rainforest Benefit Concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Proceeds from the concert will be used to protect rain forests around the world. Other performers at the fund-raiser included Billy Joel, Sydney Poitier and Roberta Flack.

## Ex-Teamster aide indicted in union fund-

WASHINGTON (AP) — A six-count indictment filed against the Teamsters' former political director left open the possibility that prosecutors could seek charges against other labor and political leaders.

A federal grand jury in New York on Monday indicted William Hamilton on charges stemming from the tainted 1996 union contest between incumbent Ron Carey and James P. Hoffa, son of labor legend Jimmy Hoffa.

Carey's slim 1996 re-election

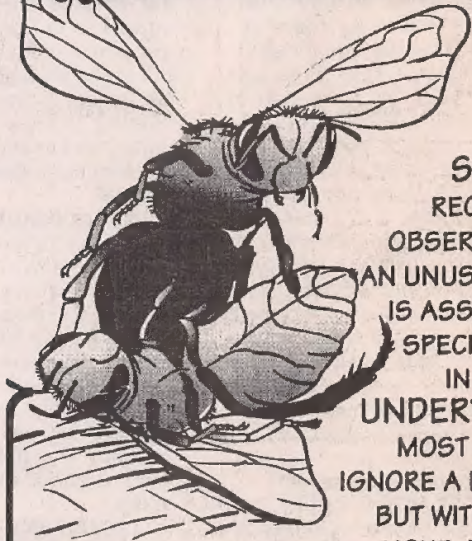
union fund-  
tion coffers

Carey has  
but he was  
again and h  
and two co  
paign — Je  
Ansara and  
pleaded gu  
year to con  
funds.

Also on M  
Michael Ch  
way for Ho  
rerun elec



# UNDERTAKER BEE



SCIENTISTS  
RECENTLY  
OBSERVED THAT  
AN UNUSUAL DUTY  
IS ASSIGNED TO  
SPECIFIC BEES  
IN THE HIVE:  
**UNDERTAKING.**

MOST BEES  
IGNORE A DEAD ONE,  
BUT WITHIN AN  
HOUR AFTER A  
HONEYBEE DIES, A SPECIALIZED BEE ARRIVES  
ON THE SCENE, GRASPS THE DEAD ONE AND  
DEPOSITS IT ABOUT 400 FEET AWAY. WERE IT  
NOT FOR THIS FUNCTION, DISEASE-BEARING  
VERMIN AND PREDATORS WOULD QUICKLY BE  
**ATTRACTED TO THE HIVE!**

... Christopher Walken) — thought  
wife, Helen (Sissy Spacek) — thought  
Los Angeles had been nuked soon after  
they disappeared into their shelter dur-  
ing the Cuban Missile Crisis. PG-13.

**A BUG'S LIFE:** 3 stars. "A Bug's  
Life" tells the story of an ant colony  
that's invaded annually by a gang of  
grasshoppers, who demand a major  
share of the harvest. One of the ants,  
Flik (voice of Dave Foley, who stars in  
TV's "NewsRadio"), accidentally dispos-  
es of the offering just before the  
grasshoppers show up. It's up to him  
to save his colony. Rated G

**A CIVIL ACTION:** 3 1/2 stars.  
Steven Zaillian's exceptional courtroom  
drama, based on Jonathan Harr's non-  
fiction bestseller, starring John Travolta  
as an ambulance chaser unexpectedly  
transformed into a justice-seeker when  
he represents the families of children  
who might be victims of toxic dumping.  
Excellent ensemble cast includes  
Robert Duvall, David Thornton,  
Kathleen Quinlan and Tony Shalhoub.  
PG-13 (mature themes, profanity)

**DOUG'S 1ST MOVIE.** 3 stars. Yes,  
it's TV blown up for the big screen, but  
despite the stiff line-drawing animation  
this good-natured little tale should  
engage kids on the younger side. The  
modest hero is 12-year-old Doug (of  
TV's "Doug"), who becomes torn  
between wanting to impress Patti  
Mayonnaise, his long-time crush, and to  
protect a sweet-hearted, buck-fanged  
monster that he and buddy Skeeter dis-  
cover in a lake polluted by a local  
industrialite. G

... (Swingers) —  
aimless energy of y  
nightlife Los Angeli  
takes place in a mo  
the buzz; beware of

**THE KING AND**  
flat look and muted  
ed version of the a  
and film is pretty m  
but the famous son  
We Dance?," "Hello  
"Getting To Know Y  
derful, they nearly r  
material up to their  
quite. G.

**LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL**  
film finds bitterswe  
midst of the holoca  
Italy writer/director  
Benigni is sent to a  
camp. To keep his  
cent, Benigni prete  
in which the unifor  
and the menial jobs  
to accrue enough p  
released. Rated: PG  
wartime horror and  
guage

**LITTLE VOICE 2**  
Horrocks stars as a  
with an eerie talent  
cabaret greats — F  
Holiday, Bassey —  
ically-tinged charac  
from Jim Cartwright  
and Fall of Little Vo  
Caine and Brenda L  
at the tops of their  
uations, adult them  
banded metaphors